

fowls, ducks, etc. In addition to what is grown locally much corn comes from the neighboring mainland. This is eagerly bought up as we do not grow nearly enough to supply our wants. The present price is \$2.60 per bag of 110 pounds. In times of scarcity prices range from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per bag. We are large importers of rice, although of late years local production has been steadily increasing. Up to within a few years we did not grow a single pound of this cereal in spite of the fact that several hundreds of square miles of land in different parts of the island are as fine ricelands as can be found anywhere in the world.

"The whole fact of the matter is that our agriculture and food problems are largely artificial, if I may put it so. The sugar, cacao, and coconut people are interested in exportation not in production for local consumption. The importing merchant would be very sorry to see cassava and corn replace flour from the United States and Canada, which means that neither of these valuable foods is cultivated on a scale that would enable me to give you such definite information as would be of use for your tropical possessions.

"It is only since the war that the dasheen has come into prominence in Trinidad, the high prices of flour, imported, so-called Irish potatoes, and other vegetables having contributed to this. Today, dasheens are being eaten in houses where the very name was unknown a couple of years ago. Formerly, dasheens were sold as cheap as a cent or a cent and a half per pound, now housekeepers consider themselves in luck if their cooks can get them dasheens at three cents. Whether a popular flour for bread-making will ever be prepared from it is a doubtful question; but there is no doubt about its having become a popular vegetable, which it was not before. Two varieties are being grown here; a white and a purplish; the latter looking, when boiled, like blue-mottled soap. The white is preferred. Our Forest Department is making some experiments with dasheens in the Southern District where a twenty-acre block at the Central Range Reserve has been planted up with them as a cover crop for the seedlings of cypress, cedar, and teak, which are being grown there. I suppose something will be published on the subject later on. I shall look out for it and send a copy along to you.

"Years ago, you were kind enough to send me a couple of plants each of *Trapp* and *Pollock* avocados, of which one of each has grown into quite a good-sized